

Script:

Sophie - I was diagnosed right after my 9th birthday.

Macey - I was 13.

Viviana - I was diagnosed at birth.

VO: Every 20 minutes, a child is diagnosed with a critical illness, according to the organization Make-A-Wish.

Sophie - I had ovarian cancer.

Macey - I had cancer called glioma.

Viviana - What I have is half of my heart and the half that I have is my left side.

VO: Through freshman Sophie Kapolnek and Macey OKeefe and sophomore Viviana Ruiz Garcia's battles, it was the people and things around them that had a true effect on their pathway through recovery.

Sophie - The school made t-shirts that they'd all wear when I'd go into the hospital and they all did like a head shaving ceremony

Macey - When I was trying to learn how to walk again they would walk me to Panera Bread.

Viviana - They called me the SpaGirl when I was there cause I had them do my hair, do my nails, it was crazy.

Macey - Technically I am free from it and I don't have it anymore.

Sophie - I fought it for like 6 months but now I'm 6 years cancer-free.

VO: With the help of their doctors the three were selected into the Make-A-Wish program an organization that helps fulfill the wishes of children with critical illnesses. Sophie's wish was granted, sending her to a famous magical theme park.

Sophie - I had it in 2017 and it was to go to DisneyWorld.

Sophie - It was the best week of my life you can't go back to Disney after going for Make-A-Wish.

VO: While Macey is still undecided about her travel destination Viviana just found out she'll be headed to Puerto Rico.

Macey - I want to go travel somewhere tropical and cool.

Viviana - When I got the email on my mom's phone I was so happy I was crying I was so excited.

VO: Through their unique bond the three have become good friends on Monarch's yearbook staff.

Viviana - It's been really nice to be able to become friends with Sophie and Macey honestly it's great being with them.

Sophie - There's not a lot of wish kids and it's like two of like my really good friends are Make-A-Wish kids and they went through similar things so it kind of brings us closer.

VO: Though not easy battles to go through there are words of hope for those still battling.

Macey - You got to keep positive or your not gonna get anywhere because miracles do happen. I literally got up and walked when they didn't expect me to walk for 4 months.

Sophie - No matter like how hard it gets keep trying to push because it's gonna get better and you're gonna be okay one day.

For KYOT I'm Ella Malm.